

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the thorough examination of the present application that is reflected in the Official Action of June 20, 2006. In response, Applicants have amended independent Claims 1, 5, 10 and 20 to clarify that the calls are initiated by voice activated dialing (VAD). Applicants submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance for the reasons that will be discussed in detail below.

Please enter the following amendments in which Claims 1, 5, 10, and 20 are amended. Claims 1-24 are now pending in the present application. Favorable reconsideration of the application and presently pending claims, as amended, are respectfully requested.

Examiner Interview Summary and Claim Amendments

Applicants appreciate the courtesies that were extended to the undersigned by Examiner Sing during a telephone interview on August 18, 2006. During the interview, the point that the calls described in the Wattenbarger reference are not initiated by voice activated dialing was presented to Examiner Sing. Examiner Sing agreed and indicated that the claims should be amended to clarify that the calls recited in Applicants' claims are "initiated by" voice activated dialing in contrast with Wattenbarger. Applicants appreciate Examiner Sing's suggestions regarding clarifying language. The above constitutes an accurate summary of the substance of the telephone interview between the Examiner and the undersigned on August 18, 2006, pursuant to MPEP §713.04.

In response, independent Claims 1, 5, 10 and 20 have been amended to include recitations to the effect that the calls are "initiated by" voice activated dialing.

Independent Claims 1, 5, 10, and 20 are Patentable

Claim 1 stands rejected as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,835,570 to Wattenbarger ("Wattenbarger"). Claim 1 now recites:

A method for routing a call based on voice activated dialing (VAD), comprising:

receiving a call initiated by a voice activated dialing (VAD) instruction;

 failing to find a call destination number corresponding to the VAD instruction in a first directory;

translating at least a part of the VAD instruction into data;
using the data to obtain the call destination number from a second
directory; and
routing the call to the call destination number.

(Emphasis added.)

Applicants respectfully submit that Wattenbarger generally describes a voice-directed dialing method using a system for using directory assistance with a spoken voice label. Wattenbarger, column 2, lines 30-33. Specifically, Wattenbarger describes **dialing a service number** to access a voice activated directory assistance and **then using a voice label** to look up and route the call. Thus, the call is initiated by numerical dialing before any voice related operation is undertaken. *See, e.g.*, FIG. 3, block 101; column 3, lines 23-26. Thus, dialing a service number to access a directory assistance system is not initiated by voice activated dialing.

Accordingly, Wattenbarger does not disclose or suggest, among other things, "receiving a call initiated by a voice activated dialing (VAD) instruction," as recited in Claim 1, as amended, and the operations that take place therefrom as recited in the remainder of Claim 1. For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1 is patentable.

Applicants submit that independent Claims 5, 10, and 20, which stand rejected as anticipated by Wattenbarger, are patentable for at least similar reasons. Claims 5, 10, and 20 are amended to include similar recitations to the "initiated by a voice activated dialing instruction" of Claim 1. For at least similar reasons discussed above regarding Claim 1, Applicants submit that independent Claims 5, 10, and 20 are patentable over Wattenbarger.

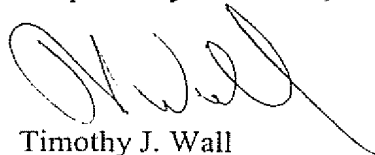
The Dependent Claims are Patentable

Dependent Claims 2-4, 6-9, 11-19, and 21-24 are patentable at least by virtue of the patentability of the various ones of independent Claims 1, 5, 10, and 20, from which they depend. Although various of the dependent claims are separately patentable, for the sake of brevity, Applicants reserve the right to present these issues in future communications if necessary.

CONCLUSION

As all of the claims are now in condition for allowance, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the claims and passing of the application to issue in due course. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (919) 854-1400.

Respectfully submitted,

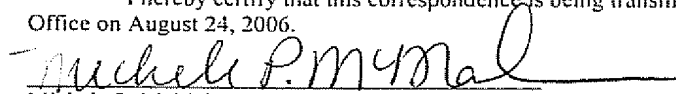


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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted electronically to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on August 24, 2006.



Michele P. McMahan

Date of Signature: August 24, 2006